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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

EPIC GAMES, INC.

Plaintiff, Counter-defendant
v.

APPLE INC.,

Defendant, Counterclaimant

Case No. 4:20-cv-05640-YGR-TSH

**APPLE INC.'S ADMINISTRATIVE
MOTION TO SEAL**

The Honorable Thomas S. Hixson

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Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) and Local Rule 79-5, Apple Inc. (“Apple”) respectfully moves the Court to seal portions of the privilege log entries submitted as an exhibit to Apple’s Objections to Special Master Rulings on Apple’s Productions of Re-Reviewed Privileged Documents (“Objections”), which was filed under section 4 of the Joint Stipulation and Order Approving Privilege Re-Review Protocol (Dkt. 1092) (the “Protocol”). The exhibit contains information sealable under controlling law and Local Rule 79-5. Specifically, the exhibit contains excerpts from Apple’s privilege log prepared for the Special Masters conducting evaluation of the privilege claims stemming from Apple’s re-review. The privilege log is required to be filed under the terms of the Protocol, but contains competitively sensitive, non-public information regarding Apple’s project codenames. It also contains personally identifiable information in the form of email addresses of Apple employees. Apple’s proposed redactions of that information are highlighted in yellow in the un-redacted version of the exhibit that Apple is filing under seal and are itemized in the concurrently filed Declaration of Mark A. Perry (the “Perry Declaration”).

LEGAL STANDARD

“The court may, for good cause, issue an order to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense,” including preventing the disclosure of information. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c). The Court has “broad latitude” “to prevent disclosure of materials for many types of information, including, *but not limited to*, trade secrets or other confidential research, development, or confidential information.” *Phillips v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1211 (9th Cir. 2002) (emphasis in original); *see also Kamakana v. City and Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (compelling circumstances exist to seal potential release of trade secrets) (citing *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978)); *PQ Labs, Inc. v. Qi*, 2014 WL 4617216, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 15, 2014) (granting multiple motions to seal where publication would lead to the disclosure of trade secrets); *Apple Inc. v. Rivos, Inc.*, 2024 WL 1204115, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 21, 2024) (granting request to seal “internal product codenames” and noting that a prior request for the same had also been granted). Courts often find good cause exists to seal personally identifiable information. *See, e.g., Snapkeys, Ltd. v. Google LLC*, 2021 WL1951250, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 14, 2021) (granting motion to file under seal personally identifiable information, including email addresses and telephone numbers

1 of current and former employees).

2 Although a party must show compelling circumstances to seal information appended to
3 dispositive motions, the standard for non-dispositive motions is “good cause.” *In re Anthem, Inc. Data*
4 *Breach Litig.*, 2018 WL 3067783, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 16, 2018); *Rembrandt Diagnostics, LP v.*
5 *Innovacon, Inc.*, 2018 WL 1001097, at *1 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 21, 2018); *see DNA Genotek Inc. v. Spectrum*
6 *Sols., L.L.C.*, 2023 WL 4335734, at *2 (S.D. Cal. May 10, 2023). In general, requests to seal information
7 should be narrowly tailored “to remove from public view only the material that is protected.” *Ervine v.*
8 *Warden*, 214 F. Supp. 3d 917, 919 (E.D. Cal. 2016); *Vineyard House, LLC v. Constellation Brands U.S.*
9 *Ops., Inc.*, 619 F. Supp. 3d 970, 972 n.2 (N.D. Cal. 2021) (Gonzalez Rogers, J.) (granting a motion to
10 seal “because the request is narrowly tailored and only includes confidential information”).

11 DISCUSSION

12 Apple seeks to seal personally identifiable information in the privilege log submitted as an exhibit
13 to Apple’s Objections, as well as the sensitive business information regarding project codenames. *See*
14 *Perry Decl.* ¶ 5.

15 Apple’s administrative motion to seal is subject to the “good cause” standard because it concerns
16 non-dispositive objections related to discovery. *See, e.g., Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179 (“[T]he public
17 has less of a need for access to court records attached only to non-dispositive motions because those
18 documents are often unrelated, or only tangentially related, to the underlying cause of action.”); *Lee v.*
19 *Great Am. Life Ins. Co.*, 2023 WL 8126850, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2023) (“Matters concerning
20 discovery generally are considered nondispositive of the litigation”) (quotation omitted); *see also In re*
21 *Anthem, Inc. Data Breach Litig.*, 2018 WL 3067783, at *2; *Rembrandt Diagnostics, LP*, 2018
22 WL1001097, at *1; *Al Otro Lado, Inc. v. Wolf*, 2020 WL 5422784, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 10, 2020).

23 Apple easily meets the good cause standard here. *Lamartina v. VMware, Inc.*, 2024 WL 3049450,
24 at *2 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2024) (good cause to seal internal email communications). Apple’s limited
25 proposed redactions protect against the harmful disclosure of Apple’s internal business decision-making,
26 including non-public project codenames. *See DNA Genotek Inc.*, 2023 WL 4335734, at *2 (finding good
27 cause where disclosure would “undercut” a party’s “position ... in the marketplace”); *Apple Inc. v. Rivos,*
28 *Inc.*, 2024 WL 1204115, at *1 (granting request to seal “internal product codenames” and noting that a

1 prior request for the same had also been granted). Apple operates in an intensely competitive
2 environment, and thus has taken extensive measures to protect the confidentiality of its information. *See*
3 Perry Decl. ¶ 3. Disclosure of the sealed information relating to confidential project codenames could
4 harm Apple’s business interests. *Id.* ¶ 3. Furthermore, courts in this district have found not only good
5 cause, but compelling reasons exist to seal personally identifiable information. *See Snapkeys*, 2021 WL
6 1951250, at *3 (granting motion to file under seal personally identifiable information, including email
7 addresses and telephone numbers of current and former employees); *see also UnifySCC v. Cody*, 2023
8 WL 7170265, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 30, 2023) (finding compelling reasons to seal personally identifying
9 information of employees, including names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses). Here,
10 certain entries in the privilege log reveal Apple’s project codenames and others reveal personally
11 identifiable information. Good cause exists to protect both types of information.

12 Moreover, Apple has narrowly tailored its sealing request to include only the information
13 necessary to protect its confidential business information and personally identifiable information. *See*
14 Perry Decl. ¶ 6; *Krommenhock v. Post Foods, LLC*, 2020 WL 2322993, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 11, 2020)
15 (granting motion to seal “limited” information); *see also Phillips*, 307 F.3d at 1211; *Williams v. Apple*
16 *Inc.*, 2021 WL 2476916, at *2–*3 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2021) (noting Apple’s narrowed sealing requests
17 with “tailored redactions”); Dkt. No. 643 at 3 (finding Apple’s proposed redactions appropriate for an
18 exhibit when redactions were “narrowly tailored” to “sensitive and confidential information”). Apple
19 has only partially redacted limited information within the privilege log entries. *See Perry Decl.* ¶ 6.

20 For the foregoing reasons, there is good cause that warrants partially sealing the exhibit to
21 Apple’s Objections.

22 CONCLUSION

23 Apple respectfully requests that the Court seal the information identified in the accompanying
24 declaration.

1 Dated: March 21, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

2 By: /s/ Mark A. Perry

3 Mark A. Perry

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES LLP

4 *Attorney for Apple Inc.*

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